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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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Army.

1. Minister of National Defense is Enver Hoxha. Director of General Army Head-
quarters is General Beqir Balluku, [redacted]

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Organization of General Army Headquarters:

2. The Organization of General Army Headquarters is as follows:

- a. Major General Haxhi Lleshi, [redacted] 25X1
 b. Administrative branch: Lieutenant Colonel Petrit Dume. 25X1
 c. Political branch: Colonel Sadik Bektashi from Shkoder, [redacted]
 d. Artillery branch: Major General Tahir Kadare, [redacted]
 e. Artillery assistant: Lieutenant-Colonel Todi Naci. [redacted]
 f. Training branch: Assistant, Lieutenant-Colonel Astrit Nishani, [redacted]
 g. Quartermaster: Colonel Kiazim Kondi (Kodi-?).

3. The training and administrative branches are under the direct orders of
Petrit Dume.

4. Regiments of the Gjinokaster Division. The 1 Division has four regiments,
three infantry and one artillery.

5. The 8 Division (pseudonym)* is actually the 2 Division:

- a. Commander: Hito Cako, Lieutenant-Colonel, [redacted] 25X1
 b. Political Commissar: formerly Halil Palo. Lieutenant-Colonel. [redacted]
 c. Chief of Staff: Major Abas Fejzo, [redacted]
 d. Political branch: Captain Kosta Karanxha [redacted]

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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- e. Personnel branch: Second Lieutenant Kico Orgocka,
- f. Armament and artillery branch: Captain Kemal Pasha,
- g. Administrative branch: Captain Petro Thaka.
- h. Army Security: Captain Anton Butka

Assistants:

- i. Warrant Officer Fatmir Tefiku
- j. Warrant Officer Thoma Bocis
- k. Artillery branch: Major Ferit Hago
- l. Mechanized branch: Captain Thimi Iapi
- m. Communications branch: First Lieutenant Pandi Kita
- n. Quartermaster: First Lieutenant Veis Sayo
- o. Medical unit: Captain Emin Bektashi,
- p. Veterinary: Captain Kemal Geka
- q. Recruiting: Second Lieutenant Mehmet (fnu)

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6. Regiments of the 8 Division: The 9 Regiment was transferred to Vukjaka from Korce on 5 May 1950 for the summer:

- a. Political Commissar: Captain Gago Boboshtica
- b. Chief of Staff: Captain Midhat Kodi
- c. Sigurimi commander: First Lieutenant Ilio Kyrici
- d. Quartermaster: First Lieutenant Zisi Boicani.
- e. Administration: First Lieutenant Ernest (fnu)

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7. Battalions of the 9 Regiment (25, 38, and 75):

- a. The 25 Battalion is located at Vithkuq.
- b. The 38 Battalion is located at Dardhe.
- c. The 75 Battalion is located at Vithkuq.

8. The 14 Regiment was transferred from Korce on 5 May 1950 to Gjonmadi for the summer:

- a. Political Commissar: Captain Vangeli Papa
- b. Chief of Staff: First Lieutenant Koco Gergji
- c. Sigurimi commander: First Lieutenant Agias Karafilii
- d. Quartermaster: Captain Todis

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9. Battalions of the 14 Regiment: Commander of this regiment is Andrea Lara,

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- a. The 57 Battalion is located at Gjonmadh.
- b. The 84 Battalion is located at Bilisht.
- c. The 103 Battalion is located at Gjonmadh.

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10. The 26 Regiment was transferred to Kukës from Pogradec on 5 May 1950.

- a. Commander: A major who went to the Soviet Union two months ago to study at the military academy.
- b. Political Commissar: Captain Bairam. [redacted]
- c. Chief of Staff: Captain Ljuto Pasai [redacted]
- d. Army Security Commander: First Lieutenant Kosta Panteli [redacted]

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11. Artillery regiment of the 8 Division (headquarters at Gjonmadh).

- a. Commander: Captain Bajram Riza, [redacted]
- b. Political Commissar: Captain Iljos Furc [redacted]
- c. Chief of Staff: Captain Nevros Beileri [redacted]
- d. Anti-tank officer: A First Lieutenant (name unknown).
- e. Army Security Commander: First Lieutenant Sovros Prifti [redacted]
- f. Quartermaster: Captain Rifat Drizari, [redacted]

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12. Batteries of the Artillery Regiment.

The batteries belonging to the Artillery Regiment of the 8 Division are the 8, 12, 16, and a training battery. The combined strength of these batteries is about 450 men. Each battery has two platoons and each platoon has two squads of artillery. Two of the platoons have 75 K13 type guns, while the other platoon has 120 mm. guns and heavy Soviet mortars. All the artillery pieces are towed by mules, but it is also possible to tow them by vehicles since the wheels of the artillery pieces are of solid rubber.

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13. 1 Division located at Tirane.

- a. The 30 Regiment of 1 Division is located at Tirane.
Commander: Captain Panteli Varesi [redacted]

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- b. The artillery regiment of 1 Division is located at Tirane.

14. Strength of a Division:

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Men</u>
Division Headquarters	60 - 70	about 40
Regimental Headquarters	30 - 35	about 40
Artillery Regimental Headquarters	20	21
Battalion Headquarters	4	1
Group (sic - platoon - ?) Headquarters	4	1
Three infantry companies	5	85 - 90
Machine gun company	5	50 - 60
Mortar company	5	35 - 40
Battery	4	36 - 40
Automatic rifle platoon	1	21
Supply platoon	1	25
Total Strength of a Division	570	5,460**

15. Tank regiments were organized in 1948, and are under the command of the Ministry of National Defense. The 25 tank regiment of 34-ton tanks (sic - T-34's - ?) is located at Tirane and commanded by Major Boria [redacted]. Five to six light tanks are located in Korce, in a building on the east side of the airfield.

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16. There is an anti-aircraft regiment which was organized in 1947-1948; it is located at Tirane.

17. A mechanized regiment is located at Shkoder; it was organized in 1945. The commander is Captain Ismail Xhevairi.

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18. A Communications Regiment is located at Tirane; it was organized in 1945.

19. A Vehicle Battalion is located at Tirane; it was organized in 1945.

20. The Independent Brigade with Headquarters in Vlone was organized in 1948. Commanding officer is Major Mahmut Agoli

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21. Coastal Defenses of Albania.

a. Coastal defenses have not been organized into regiments, but probably into platoons (sic). Headquarters for coastal defense is at Durres. The Commander is Lieutenant-Colonel Hulusi Spahiu

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b. There are four artillery posts in the hills west of Durres, about 300 meters apart. They are uncovered and their base is concrete. They have been camouflaged with wire net.

c. It is alleged that there are coast artillery posts in the area of Shengjin, 60 kilometers south of Shkoder, and at Sasano where there are fortifications constructed

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22. Armament: The armament of the three above-mentioned Infantry Divisions is of Soviet make:

a. Rifles manufactured in 1900 and improved in 1930.

b. Machine guns; D.P. and Maxim.

c. Mortars; 82 mm. and 120 mm.

d. The special border brigades and battalions have [] armament. The Policijs also has [] weapons.

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23. Ranks and Insignia:

a. Infantry - Red epaulets with band on cap.

b. Artillery - Blue epaulets with band on cap.

c. Tanks - dark blue epaulets with band on cap.

d. Mechanized - Red epaulets with band on cap.

e. Quartermaster - Yellow epaulets with band on cap.

24. Hoxha wears gold epaulets with four gold stars and a red band on his cap and a three-inch red band on the seam of his trousers. A Lieutenant General wears the same with two stars; a Major General the same with one star. A Colonel wears metal gold-plated epaulets with two red parallel lines and three stars in the shape of a triangle. A Lieutenant Colonel wears the same with two stars. A major wears the same with one star and a first lieutenant wears one red band and four stars and a second lieutenant wears the same with two stars.

25. Transportation. The infantry moves on foot. The two special pursuit brigades are transported on trucks, Steyr and Tatra two-ton type. There are about 150 vehicles. The vehicle battalion belongs to the Ministry of National Defense and has the following type vehicles: Skoda, Polish type (sic); Zis, Soviet type, (G.M.C.) Chevrolets given by UNRRA.

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26. Communications. All communications equipment is of Soviet make. The entire army uses portable wireless, and only the communications regiments use wireless on vehicles. There are wireless sets in all the divisions and regiments of all branches (sic). The artillery regiments probably have one wireless for every group; the tank regiments have a wireless for every tank. Each company has telephones. The companies have contact with their platoons by messengers.
27. Warehouses. There are army warehouses at Elbasan. Weapons and munitions warehouses of the 8 Division are at Korces. They are located about 600 meters outside the city towards the road going to Bilisht. They are guarded. Permanent military installations are at Korces and Tirane.
28. Secret Service of the Army. Lieutenant-Colonel Kerim Muka, [redacted] is serving in the Ministry of Interior, and is trusted by Mehmet Shehu from whom he receives orders directly. He has undertaken the organization of the Kossovar groups in the area of Kosova against Tito. Muka frequently goes to the area of Kosova for the organization of these groups.
29. Army Post Office. In every division there is a Warrant Officer with two or three assistants and one motorcycle for the mail-section. Every regiment has one non-commissioned officer assigned to the post office. There is no post office in the battalions. [redacted]
30. Fortifications. Fortifications are being constructed, south of Dardhe about 1,000 meters, on an elevation where the church of St. Peter is located. The concrete fortifications have an inside diameter of two meters; two of the three port holes face the Greek border.
31. Security Army. This Army consists of two special brigades, border-guard battalions, and the guard of the Popular Albanian Democracy. The border-guard battalions have 150 men in each company. It is estimated that there are 6 or 7 border-guard battalions. Border-guard battalion headquarters at Bilisht is commanded by Captain Mysaim Ceko from Erseke.
32. The guard of the Popular Albanian Democracy has 200 to 300 men. This unit is for the security of the Ministry of National Defense and the Central Committee of the Party, and is also used for the security of the section of New Tirane where all the families of the Ministers, Generals, and various personages live. No one is allowed to enter this section without permission. Those in the Security (sic-presumably members of the guard) are paid 2,700 to 3,000 lek a month.
33. In March 1950 one battalion of the special brigades was located north of Korces and one at Tirane.
34. The military classes of 1928 and 1929 are serving in the border-guard battalions. Permanent members of the special brigades and guard of the Popular Democracy have signed up for three years.
35. Navy. Classes of 1927, 1928 and 1929 are serving in the Navy. Eleven officers who were trained in the Soviet Union returned to Albania in March 1950. Naval chief is Major (sic) Abdi Matia [redacted]. Naval chief at Durres is Captain Stavro Gsika [redacted]
36. There are about 20 officers and 300 sailors in the Albanian navy. Five are Captains. The discipline is strict because of the small number of men; the food is good. The men wear blue uniforms and receive the same pay as the army.

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37. The navy possesses five motor boats with ten-man crews and one machine gun at the stern.

 Comment: This appears doubtful since all reports hitherto have used the designation "8 Division" and never "2 Division."

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 Comment:  the strength of an Albanian Army Division is about 7,400 men, a more probable number in view of other information at hand.

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